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November 24, 2003

Mayor Ron Silvia and Council Members of College Station

Dear Mayor & Council Members:

RE: Proposed 2% Venue Tax by Brazos County

The Brazos Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau has been following the issue of the 2% venue tax very closely and with great interest. As the professional organization charged with the mandate of marketing, promoting and selling the area as well as insuring the long term viability and economic growth of the tourism industry we would like to provide additional information to you regarding this issue.

The Convention & Visitors Bureau continues to fully support the proposed Expo Center and recognizes the importance of that facility to the area and the industry of tourism. We realize that the 2% venue tax cannot be used to support that infrastructure. We also recognize the value of the additional facilities that are being proposed as part of the original Expo Center which the 2% venue tax is being recommended to support. We do not support the usage of the venue tax for this facility and we have made clear to the County Judge and County Commissioners our wish to delay their decision to move forward with the venue tax until such time as the feasibility report that we have commissioned with regards to a new Convention/Conference Center is complete. Once the report is complete we feel that we will have another piece of needed research in order for our community to fully explore and discuss the use of such a tax for a facility or additional infrastructure that will best provide for our community long range.

The Brazos Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau Board's position on the issue of the venue tax is:

**We do not support the 2% venue tax to help pay for the proposed facilities being recommended by the County at this time.**

We trust you will find this information beneficial and should you have any questions or require further information please contact Lynn McIlhaney-Chair of the Board for the Brazos Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau at [georlynn@cox-internet.com](mailto:georlynn@cox-internet.com) or 979-694-6981 or Barry Biggar-President/CEO at [barry@bcs cvb.org](mailto:barry@bcs cvb.org) or 979-260-9898.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn McIlhaney-Chair

Barry H. Biggar-President/CEO